(c) whether the work of these undertakings is suffering in absence of appointment to these posts; and

(d) by when these posts are likely to be filled by the Government?

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) As per available information, 10 posts of Chief Executives and 38 posts of Functional Directors are presently vacant in the Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs).

(b) The reasons for delay in appointment to such posts include delay in obtaining vigilance clearance/approval of competent authority, delay in taking over of charge by the appointee, sudden vacancies, court cases, etc.

(c) and (d) The filling up of vacant posts of Chief Executives and Functional Directors in CPSEs is a continuing process. The Government has issued detailed guidelines indicating the defined time-frame for filling up such posts in CPSEs so that the Public Enterprises Selection Board recommendations should be made at least 6 months in advance of the date of occurrence of vacancies and are sent to the concerned Ministry/Department for completing other formalities. The Government has also issued guidelines for entrusting additional charge arrangements in all CPSEs.

Supervision of activities of private sector oil companies

242. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Directorate General of Hydro Carbons (DGH) have been empowered to oversee ever increasing exploration and production activities of private sector oil companies in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) to what extent the DGH have cross checked the activities of private sector oil companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PAEL): (a) and (b) Government has strengthened Directorate General of Hydrocarbons (DGH) to exercise certain powers and functions of Central Government with a view to promoting sound management of the hydrocarbon resources in the country in respect of exploration and production companies including public, private and foreign companies having balanced regard for environmental, safety, technological and economic aspects.

Following powers and functions have been delegated to DGH *vide* this Ministry's Notification dated 1st September, 2006;

(i) to monitor the upstream petroleum operations in India including coalbed methane and gas hydrates operation in accordance with the Act and the Rules;

(ii) review and monitor the exploration programme and development plans for commercial discoveries of hydrocarbons reserves proposed by licensee or lessee with a view to optimizing hydrocarbon recovery from a reservoir in accordance with generally accepted international petroleum industry practices;

(iii) review the management of petroleum reservoirs by licensee or lessee and advise them on any action which may ensure proper management of the petroleum reservoirs

including their conservation in accordance with generally accepted international petroleum indusry practices;

(iv) to ask for and maintain in a readily retrievable form all geo-scientific data, reports and information from licensee or lessee and store and preserve data and samples pertaining to petroleum exploration, drilling, production and connected operations;

(v) review the reserves discovered by the licensee or lessee in accordance with generally accepted international petroleum industry practices;

(vi) to lay down norms for declaration or announcement of discoveries by licensee or lessee;

(vii) to exercise the powers of the Central Government as given in rules 24, 25, 26, 27 and 30 of the Petroleum and Natural Gas Rules, 1959;

(viii) to monitor oil and gas production and royalty or any other charges or fee or levies, and where applicable, cost petroleum etc., due to the Central Government and obtain necessary reports from licensee or lessee to facilitate the Central Government in receiving accurate royalty and other statutory charges by the due date.

However, Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas has clarified to DGH that the main objective of delegation of power is to utilize the technical expertise of DGH for better management of petroleum reservoirs and to help them function as a repository of relevant technical data.

As regards DGH approving payment for contractors, such as payments towards unfinished committed work programme under the Production Sharing Contract (PSC) and accepting such payments on behalf of Government of India, DGH needs to make recommendations to the Government on all payment matters.

(c) DGH has been monitoring the activities of Private/Joint Venture companies as stipulated in PSC, and in terms of delegation of power specified in answers to para (a) and (b) above.

Oil reserve in country

243. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that India's oil reserves are shrinking;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of the steps taken/being taken by Government to deal with the matter with appropriate strategies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) and (b) No, Sir. India's Reserves are not shrinking. Reserve accretion to oil production ratio (R/P ratio) is more than one indicating that oil reserves are getting accreted every year. The position of balance recoverable crude oil reserves in the country has increased to 766.880 MMT in 2006-07 from 713.550 MMT in 2003-04.

(c) Several steps have been taken/are in hand to accelerate hydrocarbon exploration and production activities in the country, which include the following:

(i) Carving out more and more areas for exploration for offer under various rounds of NELP.

(ii) Quicker development of discovered reserves for enabling commencement of production.